

**Committee on Community Safety**  
**January 8, 2009 Summary**  
**Audiotape of the meeting is available at Town Clerk's Office**  
**Minutes are available at Town Clerk's Office**

**1. Call to order:** 7:10 pm

**Present:** Tim Manke, Dave Tompkins, Sheryl Werner, Mike Rizzuto

**Absent:** Tony Casasanta, Mitch Page, Chris Ganzer,

**Also attending:** Dave Nagel, Town Council Liaison, Jeremy Visone, Assistant Principal, JWMS and Youth-Adult Council (YAC), Dan Cronin, YAC, Amy Roberts, YAC, Jennifer Platte, YAC, Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services, Guest: Larry Freundlich, Town of Old Saybrook

**2. Public Participation**

- Dave Nagel advised the Committee that the Mayor has been asked to come up with a shovel ready list of projects that could be funded federally. Projects such as sidewalks and drainage could be included.

**3. Healthy Communities Healthy Youth – Town of Old Saybrook**

- Dave Tompkins introduced Larry Freundlich, Director of Youth and Family Services Town of Old Saybrook to present their Healthy Communities Healthy Youth initiative. Mr. Freundlich provided some background about their project which began in 1997. They were originally funded through United Way who has been so impressed with this approach that they have supported the initiative in seven other towns in Middlesex County. Mr. Freundlich emphasized the initiative is the responsibility of the community not any one agency. He presented a power point with some highlights:
  - This is part of a national model prevention approach through the Search Institute which has been studying youth resiliency for 50 years.
  - The Search Institute has identified 40 assets or building blocks that help young people grow up healthy, caring and responsible.
  - Old Saybrook surveyed youth four times in the last ten years.
  - This prevention approach looks at the power of developmental assets. It reflects that the fewer assets a young person has, the more likely she or he is to participate in high risk behaviors.
  - It also reflects that the more assets a young person has, the more likely she or he is to succeed in school, stay healthy, and volunteer in the community.
  - Some of the asset categories presented tonight were Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time. Each category has asset sub-categories that can be measured.
  - The asset model builds a community coalition with organizations and individuals that look at prevention with a common language.
  - After each survey the coalition identifies areas that need enhancement or areas

of concern to be addressed community wide. The coalition then develops strategies and projects.

- Examples include the Woman's Club helping with the high school greenhouse; senior citizens setting up a pool tournament with youth; mentoring programs; mini-grants to local groups that address assets the community wishes to enhance; community service through the middle and high schools and youth and family services; coordinated and collaborative after-school programming between parks & recreation, youth and family services and schools; two- day retreat to increase bonding between high school students and staff; youth involvement on boards and commissions.
  - Some results: Support Assets increased by 25% between 1997-2007; Empowerment Assets increased by 50% between 1997-2007; Boundaries and Expectations Assets increased by 26% between 1997-2007; Constructive Use of Time Assets increased by 14% between 1997-2007
  - Over 10 years, there was an 81% decrease in alcohol and 95% decrease in marijuana for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Over 10 years there was a 33% decrease in alcohol and 45% decrease in marijuana by high school students.
  - Asset building takes the community working together. A town-wide message that the community cares about its youth.
- Tim Manke suggested the committee digest the information and discuss at the next meeting. This will also be discussed at the next Youth-Adult Council meeting.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes – Approved unanimously.**

#### **6. Other Business**

- Ken Freidenberg gave an update on Safe Routes to Schools. The Committee met with the Consulting Engineer and reviewed neighborhood issues, maps and planned a walkabout at Martin Kellogg for February 3 during school arrival time. The Engineer will then review all information and make recommendations. The Committee will develop a master plan and determine what items could be included in a grant. So far the SRTS grant has not been posted.

#### **7. Public Participation**

- None.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm



Respectfully Submitted: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services  
**Next Meeting: Thursday February 12 at 7pm**